



## State of Tennessee

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 348

#### By Beavers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Gerald L. Melton for his honorable, astute service to the people of Tennessee as President of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy attorney is Gerald L. Melton of Woodbury, who since 1989, has served the citizens of Rutherford and Cannon counties with distinction as District Public Defender; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as President of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, Mr. Melton has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to this State; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton is a native of Cannon County and earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) in 1978 and obtained his Doctor of Jurisprudence at the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1980; he served in private practice from 1980-1984; and

WHEREAS, realizing that citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, Gerald Melton decided to run for public office; he was elected Mayor of Woodbury in 1982, and ushered in a host of positive changes throughout his tenure until 1984; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton imparted his vast knowledge and sage insights to the next generation of Tennesseans as an Adjunct Instructor in MTSU's Department of Political Science in 1984 and as an Adjunct Instructor in MTSU's Department of Criminal Justice in 2006, 2007, and 2011; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Melton served as Assistant Attorney General for Rutherford and Cannon counties from 1984 to 1989; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, Gerald Melton was appointed by Governor Ned McWherter as the first District Public Defender for the 16th Judicial District, serving Rutherford and Cannon counties; and

WHEREAS, because of his tireless work ethic and peerless dedication, Mr. Melton was elected to a full term in 1990 and won his re-election bids in 1998 and 2006; and

WHEREAS, recognized as a leader by his peers and colleagues, Gerald Melton is currently serving his second term as President of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, having previously held that office from 1994-1995; and

WHEREAS, in addition to serving two terms as President, he also expertly served as Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and member of several committees, including the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Melton also served with acumen and alacrity with the Tennessee Sentencing Commission from 1991-1995, the Tennessee Bar Association House of Delegates from 1986-1989, and the Board of Governors from 2010-2011; and

WHEREAS, an important member of his profession and community, Mr. Melton is a member of the Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Rutherford-Cannon County Bar Association, and the Lions Club; and

WHEREAS, a true renaissance man, Mr. Melton is passionate about the Arts, performing in many of the Arts Center of Cannon County's plays over the past twenty-five years, including delivering three stirring renditions as Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*; and

WHEREAS, Gerald Melton epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Mr. Melton is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Marcia; their children, Matt (Laura), Jacob (LeeAnna), Caleb, Kayla, and Skyler; and their grandchildren, John and Audrey; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career Gerald Melton has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of members of the Bar and bench and his community alike; now, therefore,

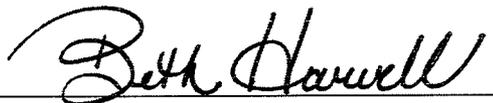
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Gerald L. Melton for his meritorious service to the good people of the State of Tennessee as President of the Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference 2010-2011, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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ADOPTED: May 19, 2011

  
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RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

  
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BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011

  
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BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR